



Public Notice

Dangerous Waste Corrective Action Permit For Occidental Chemical Corporation and Pioneer Americas LLC

Draft Permit Available for Public Review

The Department of Ecology invites the public to read and comment on a proposed dangerous waste corrective action permit. This proposed permit incorporates an amended EPA Administrative Order on Consent and a Scope of Work to implement corrective action or cleanup which is an attachment to the amended Administrative Order on Consent (AOC).

These documents address the Pioneer Americas facility, formerly owned and operated by the Occidental Chemical Corporation.

The Pioneer Americas facility, located at 605 Alexander Avenue in Tacoma, Washington, is not currently active. The proposed permit will be issued to both Pioneer Americas and Occidental Chemical Corporation.

After reviewing public comment, Ecology will make a final decision on the draft permit.

Public Comment Period March 14 – April 28

The proposed dangerous waste corrective action permit, amended AOC, and Scope of Work are available at:

Citizens for a Healthy Bay
917 Pacific Avenue, Suite 100
Tacoma, Washington 98402
Tel: (253) 383-2429

Citizens for a Healthy Bay hours are Monday through Friday, 9am to 5pm or by appointment. Please ask to speak to Leslie Ann Rose.

You may also view the documents at the Department of Ecology. Hours, by appointment, are Monday through Friday 9 am to 4:30 pm.

Department of Ecology
Southwest Regional Office
300 Desmond Drive
Lacey, Washington
Tel: (360) 407-6362

Comments must be postmarked or received by close of business **April 28, 2005** and sent to:

Leon Wilhelm
Department of Ecology, PO Box 47775
Olympia, WA 98504-7775
Tel: (360) 407-6362
Email: leow461@ecy.wa.gov

A Public Hearing Is Possible

If ten (10) or more people request a public hearing, Ecology will conduct a public hearing. *To request a hearing*, or to request special accommodation for the hearing, contact Leon Wilhelm by phone, letter, or email by April 6, 2005. If fewer than 10 people request a public hearing, the hearing will not be held.

To find out if the public hearing will be held and/or its date and location, contact Leon Wilhelm after April 11, 2005.

Overview

The amended AOC provides Ecology joint authority with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA). The collaboration between Ecology and EPA will include investigations to characterize remaining groundwater, soils and sediment contamination at the Occidental Site.

These investigations will lead to evaluation, selection, and design of cleanup measures to address this contamination.

The Occidental Site, shown in Figure 1, includes the Pioneer facility. The Pioneer facility was owned by the Occidental Chemical Corporation.

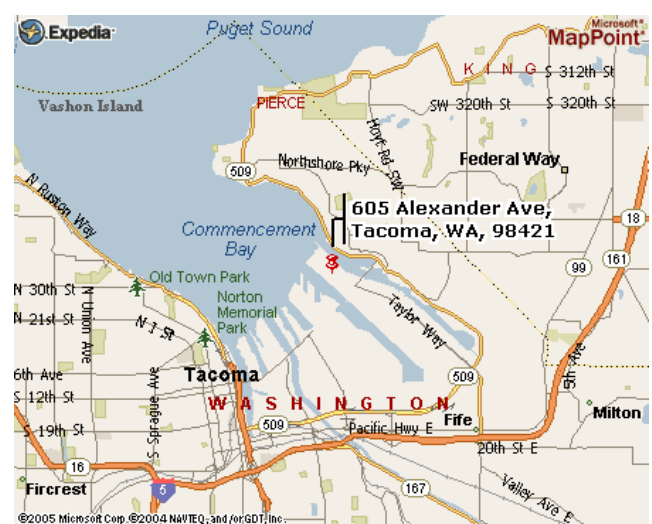


Figure 1. Location of Occidental Site.

Contaminated groundwater has migrated from the Pioneer facility to adjacent properties, including the Hylebos waterway. Hylebos sediments are contaminated from historic activities that occurred at the Occidental site.

Chlorinated solvents were produced by Occidental Chemical Corporation at the Pioneer facility from 1947 through 1973. During that time, wastes from the production of chlorinated solvents were sent to drainage ponds in the

northeast portion of the facility. After solids settled out, the resulting liquid was discharged into the Hylebos Waterway.

Historic operations at the Pioneer facility and the Hylebos waterway have caused extensive contamination in soil, groundwater and waterway sediments.

Storage and spills of caustic materials caused high pH levels in the groundwater under parts of the site. In several areas, this “high pH” groundwater has discharged into the Hylebos Waterway and destroyed habitat.

The contamination was first discovered in 1979. Attempts to clean up the contamination followed. In 1981, 1850 cubic yards of soils containing chlorinated solvents were excavated and disposed.

A groundwater “pump and treat” system began operation in 1996. It was developed according to the terms of the previous RCRA permit for the Pioneer facility which expired in 1998. The system includes groundwater injection and extraction wells, and a groundwater treatment plant for treating the extracted chlorinated solvents.

More recently, 36,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments were dredged from the bottom of the Hylebos Waterway under the 1989 Record of Decision for the Commencement Bay Superfund Site. They were treated and disposed in a facility at Slip 1 in the Blair Waterway.

However, in spite of the above measures, solvent contaminated groundwater continues to discharge into the waterway. Contaminated sediments remain below the waterway, and high pH groundwater has not been addressed.

**Amended Administrative Order
on Consent**

Ecology and EPA agreed to use an integrated approach for oversight of additional investigations and development of cleanup remedies by Occidental Chemical Corporation to address the remaining groundwater, soil and

sediment contamination. This integrated approach will be implemented using the amended Administrative Order on Consent.

Scope of Work

The Scope of Work describes tasks needed to characterize the extent of remaining contamination, select and design remedies for contaminated soil, ground water, and sediments, and develop and implement actions to control high pH ground water so that the remedies for contaminated groundwater and sediments can be implemented in the future.

**Ecology’s Procedures for Reaching
a Final Decision**

The public is invited to read and comment on this proposed Dangerous Waste Corrective Action permit. Ecology considers all public comments before making final decisions.

The public review process for the draft permit is in WAC 173-303-900. The public review process under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) is in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-340-600.

Ecology will respond to written comments submitted by the public.

What Happens Next

Ecology will consider comments and make a decision on the proposed permit.

An additional public comment period will take place if necessary because of substantial changes to the proposed dangerous waste corrective action permit.

Effective Date of Decision

The effective date of Ecology’s decision will be the date on Ecology’s letter issuing the proposed dangerous waste corrective action permit. After considering the comments received, Ecology will make a final decision on the proposed permit.

Ecology is an Equal Opportunity Agency. If you need this information in an alternative format, or you have special accommodation needs for the meeting, contact Leon Wilhelm at (360) 407-6362 (Voice) or 711 or 1-800-833-6388 (TTY relay service).

Department of Ecology
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HWTR
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